Strike by Employees of Defence Production Units

523. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether five lakh employees of Defence production units and other Defence establishments had given a notice to observe a two day nation-wide strike on 23rd and 24th July, 2001;

(b) if so, what are their charter of demands; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Three Federations of the Unions functioning in the Ministry of Defence, i.e. All India Defence Employees Federation, Indian National Defence Workers Federation and Bhartiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh had given a notice processing to observe a two day nation-wide strike on 23rd and 24th July, 2001 in support of the following four demands:

(i) to protect the interest of national security, withdraw immediately the decision taken by the Government of India to allow 100% private participation in Defence Production with 26% FDI;

(ii) To stop all types of corporatisation, privatisation, contractarisation in the Defence establishments;

(iii) Full utilisation of the capacities available in all the Defence establishments including the Ordance Factories; and

(iv) To stop downsizing and fill up all the existing vacancies.

(c) Two meetings were held with the representatives of the three Federations and position clarified with regard to Government's decision to allow private participation in Defence producion. It was also decided to constitute a Committee to sort out the grievances of the Defence workers. After these meetings, the Federations have unanimously decided to postpone the strike by three months.